

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00874 151358Z

44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AID-05 SCA-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

----- 080272

R 150920Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3766

INFO AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY DAR ZS SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NY

CINCLANT FOR POLAD

CINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LOURENCO MARQUES 874

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SGEN, MZ

SUBJECT: CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MOZAMBIQUE

1. SUMMARY: DURING FAREWELL CALL ON APOSTOLIC DELEGATE COLASUANNO AUGUST 12 HE TOLD ME CATHOLIC MISSIONS AND CLERGY THROUGHOUT MOZAMBIQUE WERE DEMORALIZED AND RUNNING OUT OF FUNDS AND HE WAS FEARFUL MANY OF THE PORTUGUESE NUNS AND PRIESTS WOULD LEAVE. FIRST TWO GROUPS HAD LEFT THAT VERY DAY.

2. COLAYUANNO SAID THAT THERE WERE IN 1974 APPROXIMATELY 1,300 NUNS (MOSTLY TEACHERS AND HEALTH WORKERS) AND 700 PRIESTS IN MOZAMBIQUE. UNDER MACHEL'S NATIONALIZATION PROGRAM FOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 LOUREN 00874 151358Z

SCHOOLS AND HEALTH FACILITIES, ALL TEACHERS AND HEALTH WORKERS

WILL HAVE TO SIGN GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS OR CEASE ACTIVITIES. COLASUANNO STATES VATICAN IS LEAVING IT UP TO EACH INDIVIDUAL TO DECIDE BUT HE BELIEVES THAT MAJORITY WILL NOT SIGN SUCH CONTRACTS, PARTICULARLY AS THEY REQUIRE SERVICE ANYWHERE IN THE COUNTRY AT THE GOVERNMENT'S WILL.

3. COLASUANNO STATES NUNS PARTICULARLY UPSET BY THE WAY THEIR MISSIONS AND EVEN HOUSES WERE ENTERED BY SOLDIERS, SOMETIMES DURING THE NIGHT, IMMEDIATELY AFTER SAMORA MACHEL'S JULY 24 SPEECH. ALL CHURCH FUNDS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN IMPOUNDED. EVEN APOSTOLIC DELEGATE'S ACCOUNT IN LOURENCO MARQUES BANK WAS SEQUESTERED FOR THREE DAYS, AFTER WHICH HE WENT TO BANK AND WAS TOLD "YOUR NAME IS NOT ON THE LIST".

4. COLASUANNO ADMITS CATHOLIC CHURCH HAS POOR RECORD REGARDING AFRICANIZATION. (OF ABOVE MENTIONED TOTALS, ONLY 250 NUNS AND 35 PRIESTS WERE BLACK MOZAMBICAN.) NEVERTHELESS, A SIZABLE PERCENTAGE OF PRIESTS AND NUNS SUPPORTED FRELIMO DURING THE STRUGGLE (MANY OF THEM BEING JAILED FOR THEIR ACTIVITIES) AND, ACCORDING TO COLASUONNO, THERE ARE MANY CASES OF THESE PRIESTS NOW BEING COLD-SHOULDERED BY FRELIMO. ALTHOUGH HE HAS HAD VATICAN FUNDS WHICH HE CONTROLS UNFROZEN, HE IS AFRAID TO DISTRIBUTE THEM TO THE BISHOPS AND MISSIONS SINCE HE BELIEVES THEY WILL BE IMPOUNDED THERE. ONE SIZABLE CONTRIBUTION FROM AMERICAN CATHOLICS DONATED THROUGH THE FUND FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH IS BEING HELD UP IN ROME.

5. THREE WEEKS AGO COLASUNNO ATTEMPTED TO ARRANGE COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT MACHEL, WITH ARCHBISHOP OF LOURENCO MARQUES AS INTERMEDIARY. LATTER REPORTED BACK THAT MACHEL HAD SAID, "WHO IS THE APOSTOLIC DELEGATE? WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE VATICAN." BASED ON THESE REMARKS AND ON REFERENCES TO CATHOLIC RELIGION IN MACHEL'S JULY 24 SPEECH, APOSTOLIC DELEGATE CONCLUDES THAT FRELIMO WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL NON-MOZAMBIKAN CLERGY DEPART FROM MOZAMBIQUE AND AN ALL-AFRICAN MOZAMBIQUE CHURCH ESTABLISHED. NUNS WHO WISH TO REMAIN ON GOVERNMENT CONTRACT WOULD BE WELCOME.

6. OF HISTORIC INTEREST WAS COLASUNNO'S ACCOUNT OF MARCELINO DOS SANTOS' "AUDIENCE" WITH THE POPE, TOGETHER WITH OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 LOUREN 00874 151358Z

PORTUGUESE AFRICAN LIBERATION LEADERS, IN 1971. I ASKED HIM IF THE GRANTING OF THIS AUDIENCE WAS NOT A POSITIVE FACTOR IN FAVOR OF THE VATICAN'S RELATIONS WITH FRELIMO. HE SAID TO THE CONTRARY DOS SANTOS HAD BEEN VERY MIFFED AT BEING RECEIVED "IN THE CORRIDORS" AFTER THE POPE'S GENERAL AUDIENCE AND FRELIMO HAD ALSO RESENTED THE VATICAN'S APOLOGETIC EXPLANATION TO THE PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT.

7. IN REPLY TO MY QUESTION, COLASUNNO STATED HE DETECTED A
SHIFT IN FRELIMO LEADERSHIP'S POLICY TOWARD MOSLEMS. WHEREAS
MACHEL HAD MADE NUMBER OF HARSH AND OFFENSIVE REMARKS AO
MEETINGS WHERE MANY MOSLEMS PRESENT, DURING HIS "LONG MARCH"
THROUGH MOZAMBIQUE PRIOR TO INDEIENDENCE, IN HIS JULY 24
SPEECH HE MADE NO REFERENCE TO MOHAMMEDANS OR MOSLEM RELIGION.
BASED ON PREVIOUSLY REPORTED REPORTS OF OPENLY DISPLAYED
MOSLEM ANTIPSTHY, COLASUANNO SPECULATES FRELIMO MAY HAVE BACKED
OFF FOR PRACTICAL REASONS.
WALKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CATHOLICS, MISSIONARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LOUREN00874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750282-1128
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750849/aaaabqqs.tel
Line Count: 125
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <09 JUN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CATHOLIC CHURCH IN MOZAMBIQUE
TAGS: PINT, SGEN, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006